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April 1, 2005

Mr. Gary Jones, Acting Regional Director
Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region VI
Federal Regional Center, Room 206
800 N. Loop 288
Denton, TX 76201-3698

RE: State of Louisiana DMA 2000 Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am pleased to submit for your review the State of Louisiana Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan has been prepared in response to the Standard State Hazard Mitigation Plan requirements of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (44 CFR 201.4). Based on the recommendations of the State of Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (OHSEP) and the State Hazard Mitigation Team (SHMT), this letter represents my formal adoption of this plan on behalf of the State of Louisiana as the blueprint for our future actions to reduce the devastating impacts of natural and manmade disasters on our residents, businesses and property owners.

The actions included in the plan reflect the major hazards that Louisiana faces including flooding, high winds from hurricanes, and subsidence, among others. Recommended actions in the plan range from working with local communities to improve their capabilities to plan for and implement meaningful hazard mitigation projects to seeking ways to incorporate better hazard mitigation practices within our own agencies as we carry out the work of our state government.

In addition, I certify that the state will comply with all applicable federal statutes and regulations in effect with respect to the periods for which it receives grant funding, in compliance with 44 CFR 13.11(c). The state will amend the plan whenever necessary to reflect changes in state or federal laws and statutes as required in 44 CFR 13.11(d).

I appreciate the efforts of your staff in working with the OHSEP and the SHMT to develop this plan. We look forward to continuing to work as partners with your agency as we move into the implementation stage of this important project. Once we receive your approval of our plan, we are ready to begin the work of implementing the recommendations in earnest.

If you or your staff has any comments, please contact Col. Perry (Jeff) Smith, the State Hazard Mitigation Officer at 225.922.1503. Again, thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Babineaux Blanco
Governor